

COVER FOR A DISPLAY OF AN IMAGE
CAPTURING DEVICE

By

Mark N. Robins

1425 13th Street

Greeley, Colorado 80631

and

Heather N. Bean

214 N. Whitcomb Street

Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

and

Matt Flach

2704 West Vine Drive

Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates generally to an image capturing device, and more particularly to a cover for a display screen of an image capturing device.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Image capturing devices are used to visually memorialize persons, scenes, events, or items. Image capturing devices, such as still and video cameras, include a body, a lens, and some manner of imaging sensor. In addition, many modern electronic cameras include a display screen. The display screen is commonly a liquid crystal display (LCD). The display screen may be used to review captured images or video, or to set up an image capture.

[0003] The display screen is typically flush with or only slightly recessed from a surface of the image capturing device. Therefore, it may be scuffed, scratched, or impacted during use, transport, or storage. If the image capturing device is dropped, the LCD display screen may be permanently damaged or broken. This is a problem for the user, as the display screen may be costly to replace, and in addition may require undesirable repair downtime. This is also a problem for the manufacturer in trying to refurbish returned units to a like new appearance.

[0004] Image capturing devices of the prior art have not seriously addressed this problem. Many cameras include a transparent plastic film on the display screen when new. The plastic film allows the user to view the display, and may be removed by the user after purchase. Such a film is therefore intended to protect the display screen during manufacture and shipping, but not after purchase and during operation by the user.

the user forgetting to cover the display in the off state, thus leaving it exposed to damage.

[0009] Therefore, there remains a need in the art for improvements in image capturing devices.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] A cover adapted for use with a display screen of an image capturing device comprises a cover capable of being positioned over the display screen. The cover is also capable of being retracted away from the display screen. A guide device retains the cover against a surface of the image capturing device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011] FIG. 1 shows an image capturing device including a cover according to one embodiment of the invention;

[0012] FIG. 2 shows an image capturing device including a cover according to another embodiment of the invention;

[0013] FIG. 3 shows an image capturing device including a cover according to yet another embodiment of the invention;

[0014] FIG. 4 shows an image capturing device including a cover according to yet another embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0015] FIG. 1 shows an image capturing device 100 including a cover 112 according to one embodiment of the invention. The image capturing device 100 includes a guide device 129 that retains the cover 112 against the image capturing

horizontally arranged, they could be arranged in other orientations. In a further alternate embodiment, the pieces may be hinged and therefore pivoted so that they retract by swinging into the image capturing device 400.